INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir or Madam:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits the following statement consisting of:

- I. A list of patents (and attached Form PTO-1449).
- II. General Remarks.

A copy of each of the following listed documents is enclosed herewith.

I. PATENTS

- 1. U.S. Pat. No. 4,497,663;
- 2. U.S. Pat. No. 4,857,563;
- 3. U.S. Pat. No. 5,780,527;
- 4. U.S. Pat. No. 5,334,691;
- 5. U.S. Pat. No. 4,362,841:
- 6. U.S. Pat. No. 5,663,341;
- 7. U.S. Pat. No. 5,844,047;
- 8. U.S. Pat. No. 5,792,816;

- 9. WIPO Pat. No. WO0178792; and
- 10. FR Pat. No. 2455068.

II. GENERAL REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the above-listed patents be given consideration by the Examiner and made of record in the subject patent application. This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits and therefore no fee is required.

Please acknowledge receipt by returning the enclosed postcard. We kindly request that any questions be directed to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL

January <u>24</u>, 2003

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I hereby certify that this document and any being referred to as attached or enclosed is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

01-24-2003

Date

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